

DAT Conference Call Summary 4/01/2010

Participants: RShahcheraghi(DWR), CMesser(DWR), GAasen(DFG), LBartoo(FWS), SKong(CCWD), LKimm(KCWA), BOppenheim(NMFS), NHindman(FWS), TBoardman(SLDMWA), JAdib-Samii(DFG)

Summary and Conclusions

CHINOOK

Last week the loss of winter run length non-clipped Chinook was 118; the season total loss is 1,546. The 2% consultation level is 23,592.

The season salvage of non-clipped steelhead is 755 and clipped steelhead is 3,470. The consultation criterion for non-clipped steelhead is 3,000. There is no criterion for clipped steelhead.

Delta smelt were not salvaged at the SWP and CVP last week. The season total expanded salvage of delta smelt is 92. Smelt larval sampling started at the SWP on the 19th, and at the CVP on the 24th. No smelt larvae so far.

No longfin smelt this season.

The season salvage of green sturgeon is 0, and white sturgeon 8.

The week's salvage of splittail was 179; the season total is 894.

NOTE: HATCHERY CHINOOK TAKE AT THE EXPORT FACILITIES CAN NOT BE DETERMINED FROM EITHER THE DFG REPORT OR FTP SITE, OR THE USBR WEBSITE. DFG AND USBR ONLY REPORT THE NUMBER OF CLIPPED CHINOOK IN A LENGTH CATEGORY WHICH IS MEANINGLESS IN TERMS OF PERMITTED TAKE LEVELS.

Chinook monitoring data can be viewed at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>

DOSS Update

For this week, the DOSS concluded that the number of older juvenile Chinook (late fall, spring and winter runs) going into and out of the Delta is dropping off and that we are in a transitional period waiting for the number of fall-run Chinook to go up. We should see evidence of this by an increase in salvage.

The DOSS summary can be viewed at
<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>

SMELT

20mm Survey 1 completed a full survey week of 3/15/10 (47 stations). Four delta smelt larvae were collected at Station 704 (avg. length 6.25mm); 2 adults were collected in the Cache Slough Complex. 20mm Survey 2 sampling from 3/29 to 4/1 sample processing is ongoing as of C.O.B on Friday, 4/2. From initial processing, Longfin smelt distribution still centered in Montezuma Slough and Napa River. Some data should be available on DFG website on Monday, 4/5. Data have been posted to
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>
(Note: fish >60mm are not displayed on the web-page).

Spring Kodiak Trawl 3 completed survey 3 on 3/8 - 3/11. 40 stations were sampled (complete survey). Data is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT>. Spring Kodiak Trawl 4 will be conducted the week of 4/5. Data may be available on the web by 4/12.

Smelt Larval Survey 6 successfully completed a full survey (35 stations) on 3/24. Sample processing is ongoing as of C.O.B on Friday, 4/2. Central and south Delta stations processed so far. Longfin smelt larval distribution has continued to remain downstream, with few larvae (<30) collected at the 12 SWP ITP criteria stations. Longfin distribution from the 20mm Survey 1 shows the main concentration in Suisun Bay and westward. No delta smelt larvae identified from processed stations. 2010 surveys 1 -5 are posted; no delta smelt larvae have been collected through survey 5. Data is available at
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SLS>.

The Delta Smelt Work Group maintained the recommendations to operate to an OMR of -5,000 cfs on Monday.

OPERATIONS

Per the NMFS BO, starting today (4/1) projects will be operating to a combined export of 1,500cfs (700cfs SWP, 800cfs CVP). This level of exports will remain in effect until the end of May.

Per the NMFS BO, starting today (4/1) target flow at Vernalis will be 3,000cfs. The BO allows for a 7-day average to reach this target. Flow at Vernalis was 1,910cfs today. Releases from the Stanislaus River have been increased.

VAMP will begin on 4/25/10 and go to 5/25/10. The 14-day average OMR was -4,749 cfs yesterday. The 5-day average OMR was -4,554cfs as of yesterday.

A question came up regarding the status of Oroville after the storm on 3/25 and 3/26. Oroville received a total of 0.6 inches of precipitation from this storm. Projections for the weekend's storm (4/3 and 4/4) is around 0.6 inches of precipitation.

Operations data can be viewed at
<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>

NEXT DAT CONFERENCE CALL, THURSDAY, 4/8/2010,
11 am, 916/657-4108.

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